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Pathet Lao Avoid Cease-fire Parley

VIENTIANE (Reuters).—A delegation of the right-wing Laotian Government yesterday made another unsuccessful effort to arrange a formal general ceasefire with the left-wing Pathet Lao.

Government sources said here that the delegation went to the village of Houayphong, about 80 kilometers north of Vientiane, but failed to contact any responsible figure on the other side. After a brief, inconclusive meeting with a major representative of the Pathet Lao, the delegation returned by helicopter.

A meeting at Houayphong was held on Saturday morning on the question of where a formal ceasefire agreement must be signed. The Pathet Lao delegation then insisted that the signing should take place at a village north of Houayphong. Right-wing sources said the Government might be prepared to accept the Pathet Lao proposal if a preliminary meeting on the political level could be held at another village to the south.

The New China News Agency yesterday quoted the Pathet Lao radio as saying that the right-wing delegates must go to Na Moun, north of Houayphong, for a conference. It said that if they refused to take part they must bear full responsibility for all consequences of the breakdown of the peaceful settlement of the Laotian question.

Back Neutralist

Opposing the decision to convene the Laotian Assembly on May 11, the radio said that only the Government of Prince Souvanna Phouma, the neutralist former Prime Minister, had the authority and prestige to call a conference to discuss the formation of a coalition government.

The broadcast said that the Neo Lao Haksat, political arm of the Pathet Lao, must take part in the coalition government. The right-wing Laotian Government has called for a "general reconciliation" meeting in the royal capital of Luang Prabang on May 10. The Laotian National Assembly is due to reconvene in Vientiane, the administrative capital, on Monday 11.

In Vientiane, General Phoumi Nosavan, Minister of Defense and Deputy Prime Minister, denied reports that the Pathet Lao had broken the tacit ceasefire agreement. He said: "There has been no rupture of the ceasefire."

Earlier yesterday, the International Commission for Laos—India, Canada and Poland—arrived in Saigon, South Vietnam, on their way to Laos. The members of the Commission are expected to arrive here today.

Closer inspection of the market reveals an anomaly that handicaps the sales perhaps more than the high (even if it is not so high) prices. Publishers seem to prefer children's books and "Bar Mitzva" books—that is, books suitable to give as presents. Such books never date, and can be sold year after year. Another profitable line, so it appears, is the foreign best-seller hastily translated. Original writings are published by a few well-known firms which claim that they lose money on them and do it for prestige. Curiously, some fashionable poets sell better than the average novelist. One gets the impression that either the Hebrew novelist cannot catch up with the tastes of the reading public, or that the average publisher does not know where to find his authors. Of non-fiction, good sales are reported of standard books of reference. A recent development in the book trade is the great number of paperbacks, some of them reprints, which grew out of a rivalry between two evening newspapers.

Numerous enquiry committees have not succeeded, over the years, in finding out what makes Hebrew publishing run, or stumble. Publishers often speak of losses, but seldom reveal how they cover them. It seems that a good many serious books are published with the aid of the authors or an interested party.

Meanwhile the once small number of Hebrew readers is increasing daily—witness the prestigious increase in sales of popular newspapers. This reader is different from the devoted scholar or the respectable father of a family who bought books 30 years ago, but the book trade is very slow at adapting itself to the changing scene.

"Book Week" cannot hasten this process, but if the Government Information Office is successful in making the event an annual feature, the habit may induce the publishers and the authors to reconsider their attitudes to books.

After all, a solution is never possible until a question is asked often enough to make an answer necessary. It is like the annual popular song festival which, we hope, will one day force the songwriters to do better than they did this year.

THE JERUSALEM POST

MONDAY, MAY 8, 1961 • 28 Iyar, 5721 • 23 Zet Alka'ada, 1380



Nato Meeting On How to Keep Up With Rapid '60s

OSLO (Reuters).—Foreign Ministers of the 15-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization converged on the Norwegian capital yesterday for their annual spring meeting which this year may mark a turning point in the Western alliance's history.

The meeting opens today. Uppermost in the ministers' minds will be the challenge of how Nato, after a 13-year existence, can meet the new military, nuclear and political requirements of the fast-moving '60s.

"Long-term planning" will be one of the main headings on the agenda, according to conference sources. The agenda will be the usual review of the international situation, particularly of Soviet policies. Long-term planning raises several questions: should Nato become an independent nuclear power, or have a share in the U.S. and British armories?

How can Nato improve its system of political consultation? Should Nato assume an economic role?

3-Day Talks

The three-day conference is taking place at what is seen here as a moment, perhaps only temporary, of slightly reduced international tension. Though the Geneva conference on banning nuclear tests is bogged down, the Laotian crisis has eased with agreement on the dispatch of the 194 international commission to Laos, and Mr. Khrushchev has emphasized the need for disarmament talks with America.

The American delegation will be led by the Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk, who will be making his first conference contact with Western Europe's Foreign Ministers.

Few expect the conference to produce spectacular decisions on the long-term problems Nato's nuclear role will be discussed generally in its political aspects, but the study of the whole problem is behind schedule, and expert talks will go on for months yet in the alliance's permanent machinery.

\$50m. Rumanian Loan to Brazil

VIENNA (AP).—Rumania has granted Brazil a \$50m. loan for the development of her oil and chemical industries, Radio Bucharest said yesterday.

The agreement was concluded during a recent visit to Rumania by Joao Dantas, special emissary of President Juscelino Kubitschek, who is now visiting Hungary.

Frame-Up in Beirut

Fifty pairs of spectacle frames, allegedly manufactured in Israel, have caused political friction in the Lebanon. The Beirut authorities announced on Saturday that the frames were confiscated from the optometrist brother of the Lebanese Deputy, Adnan al Hakim, leader of the Faraj Party. The latter has issued a statement to the press yesterday asserting that the frames were made in France.

He claimed that political charges against him in order to "blacken his conduct" in his electoral district because of his opposition to their policies.

Amnesty to Mark Hussein Engagement

AMMAN (Reuters).—The Cabinet yesterday issued a general amnesty for all prisoners, except those convicted of political offences and certain crimes of violence, to mark King Hussein's engagement.

The amnesty was announced by Premier Bahjat Talhouni, who said it covered prisoners convicted between January 16, 1960 and May 2, 1961.

Crimes excluded were Communism, offences dealt with by the State Security Courts, political crimes, rape and intent to murder.

"UAR ASKS DEATH FOR ISRAELI 'SPY'"
CAIRO (Reuters).—The UAR state prosecutor yesterday demanded the death penalty for five persons recently accused of spying for Israel.

The demand was contained in an indictment published yesterday.

The leader of the delegation, Colonel Sir Douglas Glover, a Conservative Member for Ormskirk, Lancs. The other two Conservatives in the group are Mrs. Evelyn Hill and Mr. A.E. Cooper. The Labour representatives are Messrs. J.H. May, W.R. Byron and J. Silverman. They were met at Lydda Airport by Deputy Speaker Arye Ben-Eliezer, who invited them to attend this year's opening session of the Knesset.

US Keeping 24-Hour Watch on the World

WASHINGTON (Reuters).—The State Department has set up a new operation centre designed to keep watch 24 hours a day on world crises.

The Department said the new centre is designed to see that necessary action is taken promptly to deal with problems as they arise.

Mr. Theodore Achilles, a State Department foreign affairs officer and former ambassador, heads the operation, working directly under the secretary of State Dean Rusk.

The agency was set up about two weeks ago, and is still in the process of organization. The Department said South Vietnam were the first problems it faced.

US Says Arms Talks Purely Procedural

WASHINGTON (Reuters).—America and Russia have agreed to open diplomatic exchanges in mid-June on strictly procedural matters related to the disarmament negotiations planned to take place later this year, State Department officials said yesterday.

Mr. Khrushchev said in a speech on Saturday that disarmament talks between the two countries would take place in a short time.

Mr. Khrushchev's remarks created the impression here that he was calling for a discussion of substantive disarmament questions in the early diplomatic exchanges.

He said: "If anyone thinks that such suggestions must be carried out as a mere formality, merely as a discussion of the problems, then let them take for themselves the consequences of such an attitude."

U.S. officials discounted any suggestions that the first diplomatic exchanges would go beyond the procedural matters. They said it was intended that the mid-June exchanges should be followed in July by discussions of substantive disarmament matters.

Disarmament negotiations between five Western and five Communist nations were broken off in Geneva last September.

Cairo Sees 'Goldmann Affair' as New Plague

Israel is now facing the worst crisis of its existence since the "Goldmann Affair," Cairo Radio's Voice of the Arabs transmission commented yesterday.

The transmission said that the Voice of the Arabs, said never had Israel been placed in such a precarious situation. The day occurred at 2 a.m. when a cyclist, Yitzhak Salim, 35, of Moshav Ratania, near Petah Tikva, was hit by a lorry on the Petah Tikva-Lydda road.

The lorry had just collided with a van coming in the opposite direction. Salim died at Beilinson Hospital.

The second fatal accident was on the Natanya-Hadera highway near Michmash, at 3 p.m. Haim Frasniansky, of Rehov Acre, Tel Aviv, was teaching his son Giora to drive, when the boy braked suddenly, and the vehicle overturned and was struck by an oncoming lorry. The father was taken to the Rambam Hospital, Haifa, where he died during the evening. Giora was slightly injured.

Triple Accident

At 9.30 in the morning, a three-way accident occurred on the coastal road at kilometer 42 between a jeep, a truck and a taxi.

Two passengers in the jeep, Shimon Burika and Alfonso Amira, both aged 21, were seriously injured and taken to the Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

According to police, the drivers failed to maintain sufficient distance between the vehicles.

A police lorry was also involved in the accident.

De Gaulle Said Revealing Wide Social Reforms

By MAURICE CARL, Jerusalem Post Correspondent

PARIS.—A veritable technological and social revolution for France will be proposed to the nation in a TV-radio address which President de Gaulle is to make this evening. It was predicted here yesterday by members of his entourage.

Side by side with a five-year plan designed to raise French industry, agriculture and science to new unprecedented heights, the President is believed, will present his long-nurtured programme to establish partnership between capital and labour.

He probably will not enter into details, but the scheme under consideration by a governmental committee suggests a reorganization of profits of which only one-quarter will go to shareholders, one-quarter to workers, one-quarter earmarked for reduction of prices for the benefit of consumers and one-quarter ploughed back into each enterprise for expansion of output.

The forthcoming Gaullist social revolution is forecast as a positive constructive answer to the challenge of Communism, as a lead to the rest of the Western world and as a pole of attraction for the underdeveloped countries.

In France's case, more especially for the progressive elements among the P.L.N. nationalists, who hitherto have been looking to Moscow and Peking rather than to Paris for true economic and Algeria's backward Moslem masses.

Gen. de Gaulle, it is said, will dwell in his speech on so much on past, or even present conditions, as on grandiose future objectives which an independent Algeria should find excitingly worthwhile to pursue in association with France.

2 Killed on 'No Accident' Day

Jerusalem Post Staff

Two persons were killed and four seriously injured in 30 road accidents yesterday. "No Road Accident Day," Israel's observance of International Safety Day.

International Safety Day is observed throughout the world to impress on drivers and pedestrians the need for greater care on the road.

The accident rate yesterday was higher than the Israel normal daily average. The unusually wet roads were the reason given at Police HQ as the main cause.

The first fatal accident of the day occurred at 2 a.m. when a cyclist, Yitzhak Salim, 35, of Moshav Ratania, near Petah Tikva, was hit by a lorry on the Petah Tikva-Lydda road.

The lorry had just collided with a van coming in the opposite direction. Salim died at Beilinson Hospital.

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POLAND BEATS ISRAEL 74-59

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Earlier, Turkey beat East Germany 63-50 in the same series of playoffs.

The Poles today play Turkey to decide the ninth and 10th place and Israel will play East Germany for 11-12th place.

Tsimbe to Go on Trial For Treason and Murder

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Katanga to Be 'Liberated'

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ENVOY TO MALI IS ACCREDITED

BAMAKO (UPI).—Israel's Ambassador to Mali, Mr. Rafel Ben-Shalom, presented his credentials to President Modibo Keita yesterday.

The Vice-President of Dahomey, Mr. Apithy, who is on a goodwill mission to Mali, was present at the ceremony.

MEIR STARTS SWEDISH VISIT

STOCKHOLM (Reuters).—The Israel Foreign Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, arrived here yesterday for a five-day official visit. She was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Olof Ullén, Israel Ambassador Arie Aroch and representatives of Zionist organizations in Sweden.

Her official programme will start today with a visit to the Prime Minister. She will also be received in audience by King Gustaf.

"It is wonderful to be here and meet old friends," Mrs. Meir said on her arrival. She declined further comment, as she is to give a press conference here today.

Modibo Keita, former ruler of Guinea, is expected to visit Israel in the near future.

THE HORSE SHOW

at 1 p.m. at the Ramat Gan Stadium on Wednesday May 10, 1961

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By Reuben Alkalay

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Social & Personal

The President and Mrs. Ben-Zvi, and later the Prime Minister and Mrs. Ben-Gurion, yesterday visited the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Karem, just a week after the first officers started moving into the new premises from downtown Jerusalem.

In the morning, in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Ben-Zvi, Chief Rabbi Nissim Alpert, Mr. Ben-Gurion crossed the main entrance of the Center, and the Prime Minister and Mrs. Ben-Gurion, yesterday visited the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Karem, just a week after the first officers started moving into the new premises from downtown Jerusalem.

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Mezuza Affixed at Entrance To New Hadassah Hospital

By SHALOM COHEN, Jerusalem Post Reporter

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High Schoolers' Fees Hiked IL 22

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Parents of secondary school pupils will be asked to pay an additional IL 22 on account of this term's tuition fees to cover the increase in the cost of the school, it is learned.

'Housing Errors Of Past Prove Costly'

TEL AVIV. — Israel is now paying for the building mistakes of the past, Mr. Eliezer Ben-Gurion, Minister of Housing, said yesterday at the weekly meeting of the Engineering Club here.

Busts of Jabotinsky, Trumpeldor, On Way

NEW YORK (JTA). — Two busts of Vladimir Jabotinsky and Yosef Trumpeldor are on their way to Israel aboard the *Zeion*. They will be installed at Beit Hagarden, near Petah Tikva, where they will be unveiled by President Ben-Zvi and Prime Minister Ben-Gurion on May 15, according to an announcement made by the Ministry of Education.

OLD CITY SCROLLS IN MT. ZION MUSEUM

Some 40 strips of parchment from the Old City of Jerusalem were yesterday placed in the Beit Hagarden Museum in Mt. Zion in a ceremony marking the 13th anniversary of the fall of the Old City.

WHAT'S ON

Jerusalem: New Israel Film: Daily showings, Keren Hayasad Hall, 12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Tel Aviv: Tourist Service: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 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China Seen Playing Secondary Role in South-East Asia Russia Leads in Laos Crisis

By T. DRIEGER

NEW DELHI — INDIAN expectations of a negotiated settlement in Laos, ultimately ensuring the neutralization of the country under a national government headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma, have now risen again following the setback suffered a fortnight ago India, which is closely connected with Laosian affairs as chairman of the three-member International Control Commission set up by the Geneva conference in 1954, saw the attempted invasion of Laos as a misguided act which caused immense damage to the possibilities of an amicable agreement between the Eastern and Western blocs in Laos.

Apart from these conclusions of immediate practical significance, political observers here have noted significant changes in the role of the U.S., the Soviet Union and China in South-East Asia since 1954. These changes have been highlighted by the events in Laos stemming from the overthrow last year of the Souvanna Phouma Government by the right-wing groups led by Bouren Oum and Phoumi Nosavan.

The most important of these changes are the emergence of the Soviet Union as the chief architect and executor of communist policy in South-East Asia and the displacement of China to involve itself in direct military conflict with the West.

China, in the person of Prime Minister Zhou Enlai, was the centre of the negotiations on Indo-China seven years ago. Appeals for a cease-fire were then directed to Peking. Now, similar appeals for a cease-fire in Laos are channelled to Moscow. The Chinese are nowhere in the picture, although angry noises from Peking are heard offstage. The Soviet Union has thus moved over to assume a commanding political position in a region which the West has regarded as a Chinese sphere of influence in the share-out of

international commitments between the major partners in the Communist bloc.

An openly hostile Laotian Government such as that of Bouren Oum is a threat to Peking, but it is the Russians with their borders thousands of miles away, who have stepped in to meet the challenge of the Right backed by Thailand and the U.S. in Laos.

When the neutralist Government of Souvanna Phouma was pushed out by this combination of forces, it was Moscow and not Peking which rushed military supplies to the Pathet Lao and followers of the ousted Prime Minister. This was because the Russians wished to keep the situation under their control.

In the vital question whether there should be an international confederation in Laos, spilling over inevitably into the whole of South-East Asia, Mr. Khrushchev apparently wished to be in a position to decide for himself. With the Chinese leaders in their present unsettled mood, wavering between irrational aggression and overwhelming displays of friendliness to their neighbours, the Soviet leader was not prepared to leave the management of Laotian policy in their hands.

Sino-Soviet Differences There have been clear differences in the Chinese and Soviet approaches to Laos. For example, the Chinese wanted a cease-fire to follow a political conference, while the Russians have been willing to permit a short interlude between a cease-fire and a conference.

The reason for the Chinese decision to defer to the Russians is said to be that, in the event of a showdown with the West over Laos, the Chinese were not prepared to go it alone.

The Chinese have grown wiser after their intervention in the Korean war. They are wary about taking on the Western powers singly. In Korea while the Russians stayed out, the Chinese lost

more than a million men.

The Chinese are reluctant to repeat this experience. If a war was inevitable, then the Russians would also have to play an active part in it. This was a dominant factor in the Chinese decision to let the Russians take the initiative in Laos.

New U.S. Position On the other side the U.S. has also moved a long way from its position in 1954. Mr. Dulles was a hostile spectator of the Geneva conference, and he made it apparent that he was no party to its decisions. Now the U.S. Government has appeared repeatedly for a neutral Laos and is ready to play a leading part in the proposed political conference part. And this would have brought the U.S. face to face with Red

YESTERDAY'S PRESS

NO ACCIDENT DAY

SEVERAL papers point out that International No-Accident Day, which is being observed in 13 countries including Israel, is meant to prove that if one day can pass without road mishaps there is no reason why the rest of the year, and future years in general, cannot be counted on as safe days. It is the human factor, whether driver or pedestrian, which is mainly responsible for accidents.

Hatzofe (National Religious) notes that insufficiently wide roads and faulty vehicles are also responsible. Davar maintains that the public should be educated to safety.

Lamorchav (Abdud Havadva) holds that most of the accidents happen in the immigrant centres, whose paths

ways are cut by arterial roads.

Davar (Hatzadut) contends that it is not Eichmann alone who is being tried. Together with him is the entire criminal gang of the Nazi leadership. This is why all the evidence on the degradation, torture and extermination of the Jews of Europe is highly relevant. There is no call to stand by with a stopwatch, for time should not be a consideration where the exposure of the record of abhorrent suffering to which the Jews were subjected is concerned, and we owe it to the six million to recall their travails with patience and respect for each and every detail.

Ha'aretz (non-party) finds a direct connection between the alarmingly rising rate of juvenile delinquency, noted recently by the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Josef Nahmias, and the fact that a high proportion of our children belong to the immigrant families, do not complete their elementary schooling.

Ha'aretz warns that the alarming rising rate of juvenile delinquency, noted recently by the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Josef Nahmias, and the fact that a high proportion of our children belong to the immigrant families, do not complete their elementary schooling.

NEW NAME FOR POUND

Sir, The name "Israel Pound" is clumsy and unsuitable. Moreover, it invites comparison with the Pound Sterling and gives rise to the thoughts of depreciation in the past and therefore also in the future.

If we want to establish a stable currency, suitable to our economic and financial conditions are of course paramount but the choice of a new name has considerable psychological importance both at home and abroad, and on general grounds it is time that we had a good traditional Hebrew name for our basic currency unit.

Yours etc.

V. R. TABBUSH

Haifa, March 30.

PEN FRIENDS

DIANA STANLEY, 17, 12 Barkshire Gardens, Palmers Green, London, N. 15, England, would like to have a pen friend in Israel. She enjoys painting and drawing, collecting records, literature, concerts the theatre and travel.

Yours etc.

DR. SOLOMON GOLDBERG

Sydney, April 23.

ATHENS FESTIVAL

Sir, — We should like to inform those who have asked for details of this year's Athens Festival that it will include the following features: August 7, 8, 9, 10 — The Halls Orchestra; August 12 — Isaac Stern concert; August 13 — Harvard University Glee Club; August 14 — Monteverdi's opera "The Crown of Popes" with the participation of the Milan Opera de Camera; orchestra; August 19-20 — performance of Peg Glanville-Hicks' opera, "Nau-sicaa"; August 21, September 1, 2 — Berlin Chamber Music Orchestra; September 7-8 — Royal Court Garden Ballet, London.

Yours etc.

PRERE OFFICER

Greek Diplomatic Representation

Jerusalem, April 30.

ROAD COURTESY

Sir, — I am visiting Israel again, after three years. Having noted the remarks in your paper regarding the many problems facing motorists and pedestrians alike, I find, upon observation, that consideration is very rarely shown by either side. Pedestrians in some cases seem to ignore the possibility of being run over while crossing the road, while the motorist on the other hand, seems to have nothing but contempt for pedestrian and his fellow motorist alike. The many difficulties which beset the various authorities may culminate in their attempting to improve relations between transport and pedestrian.

Of course the crucial point is to weigh the harm done to the national team by tem-

perarily taking away two or three of their outstanding players against the good done to Israeli prestige in other countries by letting them play abroad a couple of seasons. This problem caused my Club great concern and before coming to a decision I wrote to the Director of Physical Culture in Israel, who was not favoured with a reply. Finally we decided to act as we did, sincerely believing that our course was fully justified. We thought Israel, which has so many fine players, would not begrudge us a loan of two or three.

In conclusion I would stress the desire of our Club to establish friendly relations with the Israeli Soccer Authorities and suggest perhaps a visit by the national team to Australia and vice versa.

Yours etc.

DR. SOLOMON GOLDBERG

Sydney, April 23.

KEEPING POSTED

CARS do not really climb such crazy peaks, and in any case the peak we had in mind, Mount Meron, has a conveniently flat top. Now a motor road has been built to the top, and the place is about ruined. Up to recently, there was only a broad path. As you climbed up the long steep pull, people speculated on the origin of the road, saying that a foreign investor had intended to build a hotel, but when the road was prepared he found there was no water at the

brushwood with which to make a fire. The air smells mildly of mixed herbs, you have reached the top of the mountain, and the view is high enough for a child and even on a hot day, so that hot coffee is not just a guess, even the sea can be seen from the top. There is also a goat-herd's path to take you down a scree in less than half the time it took to get to the top. But what will become of all that well-earned pleasure if you can also go by car and leave your car at a kiosk at the

top. In spring there are fields of flowers, bright blue, innocent pink, and that rather garish yellow. Walking, you smell each one separately. Finally the trees and flowers disappear and there are only fragrant bushes and herbs. As you circle the mountain the view changes, drawing into a distance that enchants even the hovel of Meron itself, covers the Kinneret with a haze and brings the Hermon snows close. There is nowhere nicer.

THE top is only 1200 metres, but the contented climber can tell himself that, after all, people who conquer Sinai peaks start from much higher up than the Israeli. The lack of height has other advantages. There is scrubby grass at the top on which to lie, and dry branches and

brushwood with which to make a fire. The air smells mildly of mixed herbs, you have reached the top of the mountain, and the view is high enough for a child and even on a hot day, so that hot coffee is not just a guess, even the sea can be seen from the top. There is also a goat-herd's path to take you down a scree in less than half the time it took to get to the top. But what will become of all that well-earned pleasure if you can also go by car and leave your car at a kiosk at the

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